

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 4

LOS ANGELES TIMES
5 February 1979

CIA Inaccurate on Iran, Director Concedes

WASHINGTON (AP)—CIA Director Stansfield Turner conceded Sunday that the agency failed to predict the severity of political upheavals in Iran, but he added that none of the rest of the world's intelligence agencies did any better.

"Clearly, we would have liked to have done better," Turner said. "But I would like to point out that . . . forecasting political upheavals and military coups and unexpected election results are probably the most difficult parts of intelligence, much more difficult than military or economic intelligence."

Turner said, however, that he knew of no other intelligence agencies in the world that predicted the

Iranian upheaval. He also said that no journalists or scholars had predicted that Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi would be forced to leave the country.

The CIA director also insisted that he was not distressed when President Carter openly criticized CIA intelligence on Iran as inadequate.

"One is pleased when one's boss tells you how you can serve him better," Turner said.

He was interviewed on the television program Issues and Answers.

"As we reconstruct our reporting over last summer and fall, clearly we saw lots of dissidents," Turner said. "for religious reasons, for cultural, for

political, for economic reasons.

"It was like a series of volcanoes bubbling. But it certainly appeared that no one of them would bubble up so much that the government couldn't control it.

"What we didn't forecast was that a single man, a 78-year-old cleric who had been in exile for 14 years (the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini) would be a catalyst that would bring these forces together, and we had one huge volcano, a truly national revolution.

"It means that we have to do better at looking at the socioeconomic happenings in countries," Turner said. "It's not easy . . . but we'll try harder."